(d) The extension was not granted due to the following reasons:

(1) The tariff for fixed to Mobile calls in Telecom Circles was fixed on 29.1.97 after detailed examination of all the issues involved.

(2) This tariff was fixed for the first time and was a necessity for making the service available. Any extension would have resulted in postponement of the service.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Computerised Passenger Reservation Terminals

3038. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :
SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether capitals of all the N.E. States have been provided with computer reservation system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all these centres are linked up with all major cities of the country for getting return reservation facilities;

(d) whether there is any plan to provide computer reservation system in some more places of North-East States;

(e) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(f) the time by which the above system is likely to be provided; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Computerised reservation racilities have been provided at five capitals in N.E. Region *viz.* Guwahati, Gangtok, Shillong, Imphal and Agartala.

Provision of these facilities has been approved for Itanagar, Kohima and Aizawl and these will become operational very shortly.

(c) Bookings for onward and return Journey reservations can be made from these lications only for those trains originating from the stations linked to the main reservation System at Calcutta.

The facility of onward and return journey reservations from stations linked to the other four reservation Systems can become available at all reservation offices, including these locations only when networking of the five reservation Systems is established. For this purpose, networking software is in the development and testing phase.

(d) to (g) Besides the State Capitals, these facilities are also available at Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Silchar in Assam and at Dimapur in Nagaland. Reservation workload at other places is lesser than the criterion of reservation related transactions per day and does not presently justify the provision of such facilities. Introduction of computerised reservation at the other stations will be considered as and when the reservation workload increases adequately

Post Offices in West Bengal

3039. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices to be opened in West Bengal during the 1997-98;

(b) names of those places selected therefor; and

(c) the time by which post offices are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Targets for opening of Post Offices are allocated Postal Circle-wise under Annual Plans on year to year basis. These have not yet been finalised.

Recommendations of Expert Group on Royalty on Minerals

3040. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether an expert group on royalty on minerals other than coal has suggested significant hikes in royalties;

(b) if so, the hike in various types of minerals recommended by this group; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) The Government constituted a Study Group on 30.1.95 for carrying out detailed review of rates of royatly and dead rent applicable to major minerals (other than Coal, lignite and sand for stowing). The Study Group submitted its report in Nov. 1995. Report of the Study Group has been examined and the revision of royalty rates is under consideration of the Government.

Facilities in Mines Sector

3041. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a lack of infrastructure facilities in the mining sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;